



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



Home

Meetings

Members

Officers

Newsletter

E. Iowa DX Bulletin

Buy-Sell-Trade

DXCC Card Checking

About EIDX

History

Constitution & Bylaws

DX Resources

The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 326, May 15, 2026

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section (updated as conditions warrant) and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

This bulletin is available via email subscription only. See

<http://www.arrl.org/bulletins> to subscribe. (The online archive is no longer updated.)

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

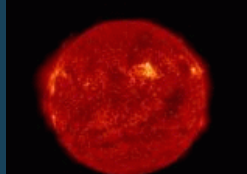
Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](#), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

16 May 2026 1720 GMT
SFI: 101 SN: 44
A-Index: 35
K-Index: 2
X-Ray: C5.5
304A: 108.9 @ SEM
Ptn Flx: 147
Elc Flx: 2260
Aurora: 4/n=1.99
Mag (Bz): -1.7
Solar Wind: 689.1
Geomag Field QUIET
Sig Noise Lvl S1-S2
Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
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5883

DX News

3B8, MAURITIUS. Ivan, UR9IDX, is QRV as **3B8IDX** until **May 16th**. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via [UR9IDX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 19 May 14, 2026] (0515-0522)

3B9, RODRIGUES I. Ivan, UR9IDX, plans to be QRV as **3B9IDX** from **May 18th to June 1st** on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via [3B9IDX](#) direct only.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 19 May 14, 2026] (0515-0605)

3B9, RODRIGUES I. Suvana, VU3OPT, is QRV as **3B9G** until **May 22nd**. Activity is currently focused on CW. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) or [VU3OPT](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0522)

5X, UGANDA. John, KF5NSR, is currently in Kampala and plans to operate as **5X/KF5NSR** on FT8 unless he receives a Ugandan callsign.

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0522)

5Z, KENYA. Massimo, IZØEGB, has returned to Nairobi and uses the callsign **5Z4AB** on 20-10m (SSB). The duration of his stay is not known at present. QSL via [IZØEGA](#).

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0529)

5Z4, KENYA. Paul, MMØZBH is currently active as **5Z4/MMØZBH** from Kenya **until June 15th**. He operates CW, SSB and FT8 and is QRV holiday style while volunteering at a local school. QSL via LoTW and [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0424-0619)

9M8, EAST MALAYSIA. 12 ops are going to put Talang-Talang Besar island (OC-165) on the air **during May** with the callsign **9M8T**. See also: <https://cqdx.my/9m8t>. QSL via [9W8ZZK](#).

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0529)

A3, TONGA. Takio, JH3QFL will be active as **A31AA** from Nuku'alofa on Tongatapu Island (OC-049), Tonga on **May 13th-22nd**. He will operate FT8 on 80-6 meters. QSL via LoTW, or direct to [JH3QFL](#).

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0508-0522)

A3, TONGA. Bob, ZL1RS will be active as **A35RS** from Tongatapu (OC-049), Tonga on **May 14th-26th**. This will be a 6m EME DXpedition, using Q65-60A in the "Q65 Pileup" mode. During non-EME times he will be monitoring 50313 kHz on FT8; depending on available luggage space and weight, limited 10m band FT8 operation may also be included. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/A35RS> for more information. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or direct to [ZL1RS](#).

-[425DXN # 1827 May 9, 2026] (0508-0529)

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. The Emirates Amateur Radio Society participates in the "Proud of UAE" campaign, the nationwide initiative celebrating the country's progress and identity. Look for **A6ØPE** (individual operators may append a serial number to the special callsign: **A6ØPE/Ø**, **A6ØPE/1**, etc.) to be used **through May 31st**. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/A60PE> for the QSL routes.

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0424-0529)

CEØZ, JUAN FERNANDEZ. Felipe, XQ7IR, expects to be active as **3GØZ** from Robinson Crusoe Island (SA-005), Juan Fernandez **starting on May 19th** at approximately 2100 UTC. The operation is expected to last roughly 20 days. Initial activity will most likely begin on 40, 80, and 160 meters while he continues to progressively install the rest of the antennas. He will also install a remote station that will be operated by "a group of very well-known and experienced operators led by Renner, PY7RP". Regarding the side trip to Alejandro Selkirk Island (SA-101), "the plan continues to move forward and take solid shape. Work is currently underway to secure a location far from the populated area and at a very good elevation". The callsign for the SA-101 operation will be **XRØZ**. See <https://www.robinsoncrusoe2026.net> for more information. QSL via [MØURX's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1827 May 9, 2026] (0515-0605)

CN, MOROCCO. Pascal, F8NQV will be active as **CN2NQV** from Sidi Rahal Chatai, Morocco from **April 25th to July 11th**. Look for him on or around 7155, 14345, 18140, 21165 and 28575 kHz.

-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0424-0710)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DR17ØTESLA** by DARC's Ortsverband Mainz (DLØMZ) celebrates the 170th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Tesla from **May 1st until December 31st**. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or via [DK8ZZ](#).

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0522)

DU, PHILIPPINES. Peter, VK4CCV, has moved to Pacijan Island (OC-129) and operates as **DU7/VK4CCV** on various HF bands on SSB and digital modes.

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0529)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of May 15, 2026:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. VKØM	Macquarie Island
2. KH3	Johnston Island	12. EZ	Turkmenistan
3. KH7K	Kure Island	13. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
4. CEØX	San Felix Islands	14. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
5. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	15. YK	Syria
6. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	16. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. FT/T	Tromelin Island
8. YVØ	Aves Island	18. VKØH	Heard Island
9. BV9P	Pratas Island	19. KH1	Baker Howland Islands
10. KH4	Midway Island	20. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF May 15, 2026 (0515-0605)

EA, SPAIN. Special callsign **EH1ØØAG** is for members of URE Baix Camp, URE Tarragones and Radio Club EA3RCY to commemorate the centenary of the passing of Antoni Gaudi, the famous Catalan architect and designer whose main and widely known work is the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Look for activity to take place from **May 11th until June 7th** on various bands and modes, and on QO-100. QSOs will be uploaded to eQSL, LoTW and ClubLog. QSL via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1828 May 16, 2026] (0515-0612)

EI, IRELAND. Pete, M1PTR and Kieron, M5KJM (EI6KP) will be QRV as **EJ6KP/p** from Arranmore Island (EU-121) on **May 21st-23rd**. They will operate SSB on 40, 20 and 15 meters during the local daytime hours. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, or via [M5KJM](#).

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0515-0522)

F, FRANCE. On March 27, 1899, Guglielmo Marconi achieved the first international wireless transmission, sending Morse code signals between Wimereux (near Boulogne-sur-Mer), France, and the South Foreland Lighthouse in Dover, England. Commemorating this milestone in the history of telecommunications, the special event station **TM8DW** will be active from Wimereux **on April 25th** during the International Marconi Day, and **sporadically until June**. In addition, **GB2DOVER**, **GB2SFL** and **GB8DW** will be operated by the Dover Amateur Radio Club on the British side of the Channel. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1824 April 18, 2026] (0417-0529)

F, FRANCE. Special callsign **TM1Ø1WARD** by the Reseau des Emetteurs Francais (REF) celebrates World Amateur Radio Day from **April 14th to 20th**. WARD is observed annually on April 18th, the day when the IARU was formed in Paris 101 years ago.

-[425DXN # 1823 April 11, 2026] (0410-0524)

FK, NEW CALEDONIA. Herve, F4MER will be active as **FK/F4MER** **until the beginning of August** during his spare time with 100W and a multi band antenna.

-[DXNL # 2509 May 6, 2026] (0508-0605)

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA. Didier, F6BCW, plans to return as **FO/F6BCW** from **May 5th until July 20th** from Tikehau (OC-066), this time with an amplifier and improved antennas. QRV with 100W on 20-10m (CW, SSB). QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0717)

FY, FRENCH GUIANA. Ronan, F4LJA, is QRV as **FY/F4LJA** **until June 5th**. Activity is on HF bands primarily using FT8.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 7, 2026] (0508-0605)

GW, WALES. Watch for **MW/HB9EMP** operating holiday-style from **May 17th to 19th**. QSL direct via [HB9EMP](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2510 May 13, 2026] (0515-0522)

HS, THAILAND. Bruce, KØBJ, is QRV as **HSØZLB** **until May 19th**. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via [KØBJ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0522)

I, ITALY. Commemorating the centenary of the Amundsen-Ellsworth-Nobile Transpolar Flight, members of ARI Colli Albani will operate under the special callsign **IØNRG** from **May 12th until July 31st**. The suffix stands for "Norge", the Italian-built airship that achieved the first verified journey to the North Pole (May 11-14, 1926) and completed the first flight across the polar ice cap from Europe to America. A certificate will be available; details will be published on QRZ. QSL via [IØKNQ](#).

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0522)

LY, LITHUANIA. Special callsign **LY1ØØRADIO** celebrates the 100th anniversary since the official beginning of regular radio broadcasting service in Lithuania (June 12, 1926). Look for activity from **May 12th to July 12th**; see <https://www.qrz.com/db/LY100RADIO> for the awards. QSL via [LY2QT](#).

-[425DXN # 1828 May 16, 2026] (0515-0612)

LZ, BULGARIA. The foundations of Bulgaria's organized amateur radio movement were laid in 1926, when 38 enthusiasts established the Bulgarian Radio Club - a predecessor to today's Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs (BFRA). Celebrating this centenary, members of the BFRA will be active as **LZ1ØØLZ** on 160-10 meters CW, SSB and digital modes from **May 1st to 31st**. See <https://lzprint.eu/lz100lz-award/> for the certificates.

-[425DXN # 1826 May 2, 2026] (0501-0529)

LZ, BULGARIA. Bulgarian members of the High Speed Club (HSC) celebrate the 75th anniversary with the callsign **LZ75HSC** **throughout 2026**. QSL via [LZ2JE](#).

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0522)

ON, BELGIUM. Special callsign **OT26EPIC** by the Antwerp Port Contest Club (ON8APC) promotes this year's edition of the Antwerp Port Epic cycling race. Look for activity from **April 25th to May 25th** (the actual day of the race). QSL via [ON8JJ](#).

-[425DXN # 1824 April 18, 2026] (0424-0529)

OX, GREENLAND. Bo, OZ1DJJ, is QRV as **OX3LX** from Aasiaat Island (NA-134) **until May 22nd**. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands. QSL via [OZØJ](#), LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 19 May 14, 2026] (0515-0522)

PA, NETHERLANDS. ON2LVC, ON4LO, ON5SEL, and ON7DE will be QRV as **PA/OR5R** from Ameland Island (EU-038) from **May 18th to May 22nd**. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 meters using SSB, CW, and FT modes.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 19 May 14, 2026] (0515-0522)

SØ, WESTERN SAHARA. Naama, SØ1A, and Azman, SØ1AH, are QRV as **SØ9S** **until the end of May** to mark the 50th anniversary of Western Sahara. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0529)

SP, POLAND. Artur, SP3LPR, celebrating the High Speed Club (HSC), will use special callsign **3Z75HSC** **until the end of 2026**.

-[DXNL # 2508 April 29, 2026] (0501-0522)

SV, GREECE. Mike, DF8AN will be active as **SV8/DF8AN** from IOTA group EU-072 **until May 26th**. He will operate mainly CW and digital modes from the islands of Skiathos (**May 15th-21st**) and Skopelos (**May 21st-26th**). QSL via [DF8AN](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1828 May 16, 2026] (0515-0529)

SV, GREECE. Celebrating "243 Years of Human Flight", the special callsign **SX1FLY** honors the Montgolfier brothers, who achieved the world's first free, manned hot air balloon flight in 1783. Look for activity on all bands and modes from **May 1st to May 31st**. A certificate will be available; details on <https://www.qrz.com/db/SX1FLY>. Paper QSLs will not be provided, but QSOs will be uploaded to eQSL, LoTW and other electronic resources.

-[425DXN # 1827 May 9, 2026] (0508-0529)

SV, GREECE. Members of the Radio Amateur Association of Western Greece are QRV with special callsign **SZ4ØA** **until May 31st** to celebrate forty years of continuous presence, service, and

contribution to amateur radio. Activity is on various HF bands and modes. QSL via [ON3UN](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 12 March 26, 2026] (0327-0529)

TF, ICELAND. Rikk, WE9G is QRV as **TF/WE9G** from Borg (EU-021) from **May 10th to May 19th**. Activity is on various bands using primarily FT modes with limited CW and SSB. QSL direct via [WE9G](#) or via TF/WE9G for [ClubLog's QQRS](#) or LoTW.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 7, 2026] (0508-0522)

TL, CENTRAL AFRICA. Joao, CR7BNW, is active as **TL8BNW** until **June**. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. For QSL info, see [TL8BNW](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 14 April 9, 2026] (0410-0529)

UA, EUROPEAN RUSSIA. Commemorating the 121st anniversary since the birth of Mikhail A. Sholokhov (1965 Nobel Prize laureate in Literature), special callsigns **R121MS** and **UE41MS** will be active on **May 18th-24th** during the 41st edition of the Sholokhov Spring Festival. A certificate will be available on <https://hamlog.online/club/mdxc>. QSL via [RQ7L](#).
-[425DXN # 1828 May 16, 2026] (0515-0529)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. David, EI7BR, and Roger, EI8KN, are QRV as **V4/EI7BR** and **V4/EI8KN** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from **May 13th to May 21st**. Roger may also be QRV as **V49B** during contests only. Activity is holiday-style on the HF bands. QSL V4/EI7BR via LoTW; QSL V4/EI8KN via LoTW, [ClubLog's QQRS](#), or direct to [EI8KN](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 19 May 14, 2026] (0515-0522)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. Markus, WW6W, will be QRV as **V4/WW6W** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from **April 28th to June 1st**. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters. QSL via [WW6W](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 23, 2026] (0424-0529)

V5, NAMIBIA. Eric, **V5/N7XOB**, will be active from **May 20th until June 19th** on 40 and 20m (SSB). QSL via [N7XOB](#).
-[DXNL # 2510 May 13, 2026] (0515-0619)

VE, CANADA. Special event stations **VB3COPS** and **VB3EMS** will be active during the National Police Week (**May 10th-16th**) and the National Emergency Medical Services Week (**May 17th-23rd**), respectively. Activity will be on 80-10 meters SSB, and maybe digital. QSLs via eQSL, or direct to [VE3KGK](#).
-[425DXN # 1827 May 9, 2026] (0508-0522)

VK9C, COCOS (KEELING) IS. Mark, VK6BSA, and Deena, VK6DEE, are QRV as **VK9BSA** and **VK9DEE** during free time **until late May**. Activity is on most bands using an FTDX-10. QSL direct with \$5.00 US International Money Order or PayPal to [VK6BSA](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 7, 2026] (0508-0529)

VP8/H, LU, SOUTH SHETLAND IS. Rafal, SQ4O is a member of the 50th Polish Antarctic Expedition to the Henryk Arctowski Station on King George Island, South Shetland Islands (AN-010). He will be working there from **May to October**, and in his spare time he will be QRV as **HFØPAS** on the HF bands (SSB and CW) and 6 meters (FT8). QSL route TBA.
-[425DXN # 1825 April 25, 2026] (0501-0529)

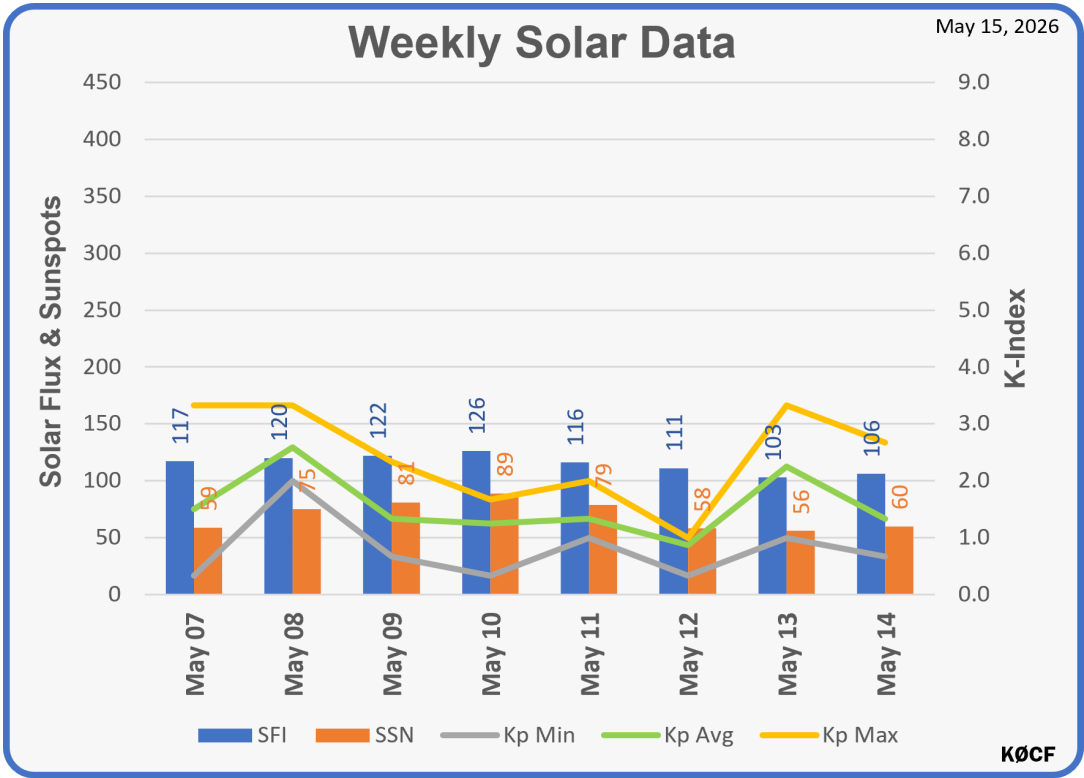
XT, BURKINA FASO. Harald, DF2WO, is QRV as **XT2AW** from Ouagadougou **until May 19th**. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT modes, as well as the QO-100 satellite. QSL only via [MØQXO's QQRS](#). He requests NO direct QSLs and NO eQSL or email inquiries.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 7, 2026] (0508-0522)

XU, CAMBODIA. The **XU7AMO** team at the National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia has launched regular weekly operations on both HF bands and the QO-100 satellite. To optimize their airtime, the team plans to balance relaxed rag chewing with high-traffic DX windows. Look for XU7AMO every Wednesday at 0500 UTC on 15 meters SSB, and every Friday at 1200 UTC on QO-100 (SSB). See <https://camrg.com> for more information. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL; the QSL route for

direct cards is via [JA3GEP](#).
-[425DXN # 1828 May 16, 2026] (0515-0605)

YB, INDONESIA. Watch for **YB1RQX/p**, **YB1RET/p**, and **YC1RIK/p** to be QRV from Singkep Island (OC-107) from **May 13th to May 16th**. Activity is on QO-100 using SSB and digital modes, and via LEO satellites. QSL YB1RQX/p via LoTW or [ClubLog's QQRS](#); YB1RET/p via LoTW; YC1RIK/p via LoTW or eQSL
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 19 May 14, 2026] (0515-0522)

Propagation



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

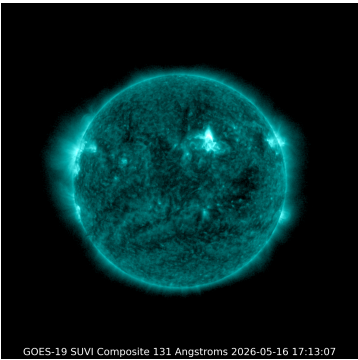
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Thursday, May 7th through Thursday, May 14th.

The average solar flux was 115, down 21 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 126 on Sunday, May 10th, followed by a low of 103 on May 13th.

The average sunspot count was 71, down by 51 from last week, peaking at 89 on Sunday, May 10th followed by a weekly low of 56 on May 13th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 2.5 with a maximum of 3.3 on Wednesday, May 13th, indicating generally quiet geomagnetic conditions. The most recent K-index maximum was 2.7 with generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since May 8th has been quiet with no major flares.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Friday, May 8th through 1537 UTC, May 15th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
None Reported			

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
May 15	40%	5%	100
May 16	40%	5%	100
May 17	40%	5%	100

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on May 11, 2026).

Date	Flux	Kp
May 15	125	5
May 16	125	5
May 17	120	5
May 18	122	4

Date	Flux	Kp
May 19	130	2
May 20	130	2
May 21	130	3
May 22	120	3

Date	Flux	Kp
May 23	125	4
May 24	125	2
May 25	125	2
May 26	130	2

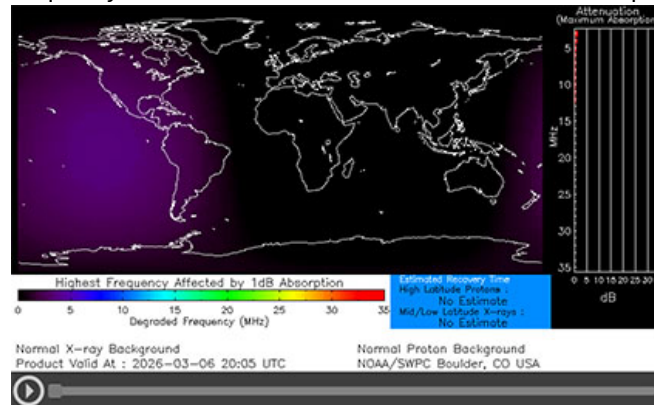
Geomagnetic Storm In Progress

Earlier today, a CIR (co-rotating interaction region) hit Earth and sparked a minor [G1](#)-class geomagnetic storm. NOAA forecasters say the storm could escalate to category [G2](#) (Moderate) as high-speed solar wind blows in on the heels of the CIR.

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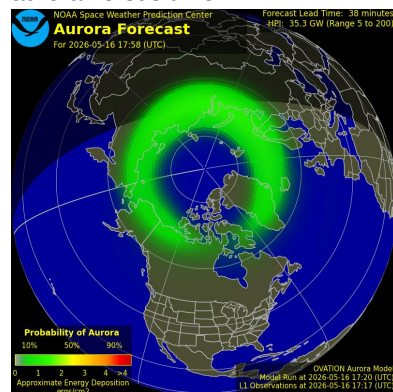
Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by “back-scatter” and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

(Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources.)

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start	End	Web Site

His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 16	1200Z	May 17	1200Z	Rules
Arkansas QSO Party	May 16	1400Z	May 17	0200Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	May 30	0000Z	May 31	2400Z	Rules
Atlantic Canada QSO Party	Jun 6	1200Z	Jun 7	0200Z	Rules
Kentucky QSO Party	Jun 6	1300Z	Jun 7	0100Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. Digital Contest	Jun 6	1800Z	Jun 7	2400Z	Rules
ARRL June VHF Contest	Jun 13	1800Z	Jun 15	0300Z	Rules
All Asian DX Contest, CW	Jun 20	0000Z	Jun 21	2400Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Jun 20	1500Z	Jun 21	1500Z	Rules
ARRL Kids Day	Jun 20	1800Z	Jun 20	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Field Day	Jun 27	1800Z	Jun 28	2100Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide VHF SSB/CW Contest	Jul 4	1200Z	Jul 5	1200Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide VHF Digital Contest	Jul 18	1200Z	Jul 19	1200Z	Rules
RSGB IOTA Contest	Jul 25	1200Z	Jul 26	1200Z	Rules
Alabama QSO Party	Jul 25	1500Z	Jul 26	0300Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, CW	Aug 1	1800Z	Aug 2	0600Z	Rules
WAE DX Contest, CW	Aug 8	0000Z	Aug 9	2359Z	Rules
Maryland-DC QSO Party	Aug 8	1400Z	Aug 9	0400Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, SSB	Aug 15	1800Z	Aug 16	0600Z	Rules
NJQRP Skeeter Hunt	Aug 16	1700Z	Aug 16	2100Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	Aug 16	1800Z	Aug 16	2359Z	Rules

(Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#))